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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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S 43/24

HM12/1015

JOHN Q MCQUILLAN
125 CRESTWOOD AVENUE
TUCKAHOE NY 10707-2208

EXAMINER

UNGAR, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1642
DATE MAILED:

10/15/01

38

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



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Patent and Trademark Office

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

The communication filed on August 13, 2001 (Paper No. 36) is non-responsive to the prior Office action because Applicant has not complied with 37 CFR 1.121 and has not submitted a clean copy of all of the pending claims. Please see attached Changes to the Patent Rules for guidance on 37 CAR 1.121. Since the response appears to be *bona fide*, but through an apparent oversight or inadvertence failed to provide a complete response, applicant is required to complete the response within a time limit of one month from the date of this letter or within the time remaining in the response period of the last Office action, whichever is the longer. NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME LIMIT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER EITHER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) OR (b) BUT THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE SET IN THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MAY BE EXTENDED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF SIX MONTHS.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Ungar, PhD whose telephone number is (703) 305-2181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached at (703) 308-3995. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Susan Ungar
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1642
October 15, 2001

Changes to the Patent Rules

October 20, 2000

Volume 1, Issue 3

This is the third in a series of Patent News Bulletins to assist you in keeping up to date with significant rule changes which affect your area. Keep this copy to use as a bookmark for your present MPEP, or view this bulletin again on the USPTO Website.



Simplified Amendment Practice.

Replacement paragraphs/sections/claims to be used. 37 CFR 1.121

The rule package "Changes to the Patent Business Goals - Final Rule," published in the Federal Register on September 8, 2000, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000), and the Official Gazette on September 19, 2000, 1238 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 77 (September 19, 2000). The PBG rule package makes a number of revisions to Title 37.

The entire final rule may be found at the USPTO Website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/olla/pbg/index.html>.

Areas and individuals primarily affected by this rule change include:
 (1) Patent Examiners and Tech Support Staff in the Technology Centers
 (2) Office of Patent Publication

Any questions related to this change in practice should be directed to Joe Narcavage, Special Projects Extr., (703-305-1795) or Liz Dougherty, Legal Advisor, (703-306-3156) OPLA.



Mandatory compliance with the revised rule is not required until March 1, 2001. It is suggested that applicants adopt the revised procedures on or after November 7, 2000, in order to adjust to the changes in amendment practice.

Under the new amendment practice, amendments to the specification must be made by the submission of clean new or replacement paragraph(s), section(s), specification, or claim(s). This practice will provide a specification (including claims) in clean, or substantially clean, form that can be effectively captured and converted by optical character recognition (OCR) scanning during the patent printing process.

The new practice requires applicant to provide, in addition to the clean version of a replacement paragraph/section/claim, a marked-up version using applicant's choice of a conventional marking system to indicate the changes, which will aid the examiner in identifying the changes that have been made. The marked-up version must be based on the previous version and indicate (by markings) how the previous version has been modified to produce the clean version submitted in the current amendment. The term "previous version" means the version of record in the application as originally filed or from a previously entered amendment.

The following format is suggested in an amendment paper: (1) a clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim with clear instructions for entry; (2) starting on a separate page, any remarks/arguments (37 CFR 1.111); and (3) starting on a separate page, a marked-up

version entitled "Version with markings to show changes made."

Applicants will also be able to submit a clean set of all pending claims, consolidating all previous versions of pending claims from a series of separate amendments into a single clean version in a single amendment paper. This submission of a clean version of all of the pending claims will be construed as directing the cancellation of all previous versions of any pending claims. No marked-up version will be required to accompany the clean version where no changes other than the consolidation are being made.

*Amendment by
paragraph/claim
replacement in clean form.*

The amended rule encourages issuance of applications with an examiner's amendment without practitioners/applicants having to file a formal amendment. Additions or deletions of subject matter in the specification, including the claims, may continue to be

made in an examiner's amendment at the time of allowance by instructions to make any change at a precise location in the specification or the claims. An examiner's amendment may incorporate a printed copy of a fax or e-mail amendment submitted by applicant. Only that part of the e-mail or fax directed to a clean version, or a portion of, a paragraph/claim to be added should be printed and attached to the examiner's amendment, with a paper copy of the entire e-mail or fax being entered in the file. The electronic version of the e-mail is not required to be saved once the printed e-mail (and any attachments) becomes part of the application file record.

MPEP 714+ & 1302.04